



**State of Wisconsin**  
**Department of Public Instruction**  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

---

**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DPI 2005-154

Friday, November 18, 2005

CONTACT: Joseph Donovan, Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

**Burmaster announces grant to develop school data system**

MADISON—The U.S. Department of Education today announced a 3-year, \$3 million grant to a Wisconsin-led partnership that will develop a comprehensive data system to meet new federal, state, and local reporting requirements for schools. Development of the data system will be led by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, in partnership with the Departments of Education in Minnesota and Michigan.

“This project is structured to deliver decision-making tools needed by all educational stakeholders,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. “These systems will help educators, parents, students, and state and local government leaders to make informed, relevant decisions about our children’s education. Through this system, local schools and districts will enhance their ability to use data-driven decision making to improve student achievement, and they will have accurate and timely data to meet federal, state, and local reporting requirements.”

Federal mandates under the revised Elementary and Secondary Education Act require states to publish annual achievement, attendance, and graduation data for students in grades three through 12, along with detailed demographic information. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will lead the data system development effort, collaborating with the other state partners who will deliver specific elements of the project.

“Each partner has unique expertise to offer toward producing the best possible product,” said Burmaster. “This work will also be of value to states outside of the partnership, as all states make the transition from their existing reporting systems, to systems that meet the new federal mandates.”

Work on the project will start immediately, according to Burmaster. The grant is funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, part of the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics.

###